

Arafat—the Palestinian leader who cannot say “yes” and will not say “uncle.”

President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Ehud Barak put on the table before Mr. Arafat a historic compromise proposal that would have given Palestinians control of 94 to 96 percent of the West Bank and Gaza—with all the settlements removed, virtually all of Arab East Jerusalem, a return to Israel of a symbolic number of Palestinian refugees and either the right of return to the West Bank and Gaza or compensation for all the others.

Not only would Mr. Arafat not take it, he would not even say: “Well, this was insufficient, but this is the most far-reaching and serious proposal Palestinians have ever seen. Now, I want to enter into a dialogue with the Israeli people and government to see if I can get them to 100 percent.”

No, instead, Mr. Arafat launched this idiotic uprising. He did so because he is essentially a political coward and maneuverer, who apparently has not given up his long-term aim of eliminating Israel and who was afraid in the short run that if he took 99 percent, he would be killed for the 1 percent he left on the table. Mr. Arafat has never been willing to tell his people he got them most of what they wanted and now is the time to end the suffering of as many Palestinians as possible and move on.

This truth is what the Mitchell “investigation” should be telling the world and the Palestinians. There was an Israeli leader, and a slim Israeli majority, for a fair historic compromise. But there was no Palestinian equivalent, and unless there is a Palestinian partner, and a Palestinian leader, for a historic compromise roughly along the Clinton lines, no cease-fire is going to hold. The best Hebrew biography of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is entitled “He Doesn’t Stop at Red Lights.” Mr. Arafat’s biography should be entitled “He Doesn’t Go at Green Lights.”

Now Mr. Sharon—who was elected in the Israeli backlash against the failure of Camp David—is trying to pummel Mr. Arafat into submission. That won’t work either. Because Mr. Arafat is as afraid to say “uncle” to Sharon as much as he was afraid to say “yes” to Clinton. He fears he would be killed for saying uncle as much as he would be killed for saying yes to 99 percent. The Palestinians will never be bombed into submission. One hundred years of Palestinian history tells you that.

The real problem is that the Palestinians are leaderless today, and that is what the U.S., the U.N. and the Arab would have to face up to. Deep down, they all know it and they admit it to each other in private. There is no Palestinian leader right now willing or able to say yes to a fair historic compromise, and we simply fool ourselves with commissions that don’t acknowledge that. Unless the Arabs can stiffen Mr. Arafat by supporting him in any grand compromise, or by creating a context in which an alternative leadership can emerge, this bonfire will rage on and it will consume many, many others.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 4, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,668,781,838,668.70, five trillion, six hundred sixty-eight billion, seven hundred eighty-one million, eight hundred thirty-eight thousand, six hundred sixty-eight dollars and seventy cents.

Five years ago, June 4, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,964,000,000, five trillion, one hundred thirty-nine billion, nine hundred sixty-four million.

Ten years ago, June 4, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,489,526,000,000, three trillion, four hundred eighty-nine billion, five hundred twenty-six million.

Fifteen years ago, June 4, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,053,350,000,000, two trillion, fifty-three billion, three hundred fifty million.

Twenty-five years ago, June 4, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$606,178,000,000, six hundred six billion, one hundred seventy-eight million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,062,603,838,668.70, five trillion, sixty-two billion, six hundred three million, eight hundred thirty-eight thousand, six hundred sixty-eight dollars and seventy cents during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF LILLIAN WALLACE

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to one of Nevada’s finest ladies, Lillian Wallace. Born in New Haven, CN on June 13, 1911. Lillian attended P.S. 132 and graduated from George Washington High School. In 1941, she joined the Army Medical Corps as a general clerk and was promoted to head of the Medical Supply Division. Having a life long desire to see California, Lillian moved there after the war and met her future husband, Julian. They drove to Las Vegas to wed in 1947 and later became residents of Nevada. Together, they devoted their lives to helping those who needed help, particularly senior citizens. They worked with the Mobile Home Owners League of the Silver State, an organization that fights for the rights of mobile home owners. Lillian also gave her time to Hadassah and the City of Hope Medical Center.

In 1982, she and Julian took a floundering group called Seniors United, and turned it into one of the most formidable seniors advocacy groups in Nevada. Lillian created the Senior Highlights magazine and has been the editor for 17 years. She takes great pride in choosing articles that are of interest and educational to our senior population. She believes in promoting the positive aspects of government and giving government officials a chance to meet with Seniors United members to discuss the issues. Lillian has always believed that education is the key to getting people to respect their government and get involved.

Lillian lost her beloved husband and soulmate last year. Moving forward alone has been one of her greatest challenges in life, but she looks to the future and continues to help seniors in need and work on the expansion of Seniors United. Her contributions to the seniors of the State of Nevada are legend and the honors she has received are too numerous to mention. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing this

grand dame of Nevada a happy 90th birthday.●

#### WE THE PEOPLE

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, We the People . . . The Citizen and Constitution program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with an in-depth, working knowledge of our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers, as well as by participating in other educational activities.

The class from Stillwater High School, in Stillwater, MN, took part in the program’s national competition here in Washington, D.C., April 21st–23rd, 2001. I would like to thank the students, Lindsay Jasicki, Leah Abbe, Aaron Williamson, Patrick Hueller, Anders Johnson, Stephanie Ebner, Aaron Ulland, Lee Howard, Jessica McGlaufflin, Kyle Ellefson, Jeffrey Morency, Jordan Hild, Rebecca Siemers, Patrick Horst, Blake Rasmussen, and David Hoffman and their teacher, Ms. Kathleen Ferguson, for representing Minnesota at this prestigious event. To reach this level of competition demonstrates a tremendous knowledge of the essential ideals and values of the American constitutional government. My staff and I wish these young “constitutional experts” the best of luck in the future.●

#### S.C. LIBRARY HONORED

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, It is official. The Richland County Public Library is the best library system in the country. Library Journal magazine and the Gale Group, the Nation’s largest publisher of reference works for libraries, recently named the Richland library the National Library of the Year 2001. The library’s executive director, C. David Warren, will accept the award on June 18 at a ceremony in San Francisco during the annual conference of the American Library Association. This honor is the latest in a string of honors bestowed on Richland County’s system. In 1999, the American Library Association chose the library as the No. 1 large library system in the Southeast and, in 2000, Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings ranked it fourth among urban libraries serving populations of 250,000–499,999. It was only a matter of time before it earned top billing nationwide.

Three key factors influenced selection of the Library of the Year: service to the community, creativity in developing community programs and leadership in creating programs that other libraries can emulate. The Richland library shines in each of these areas